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花黒子



~ツナギを着た転生者~



MFブックス

Exterminator

— Kujonin —

- Volume 1 - The Exterminator's Daily Life

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[Hon'yaku]

- STORY -

It's a story where a man who exterminated pests continues to exterminate pests in another world.

Chapter 1

It was already past dusk when the cleaning at the Elf's Pharmacy was done; it was completely nightfall.

Camilla, as the pharmacy's manager is called, is an old person with a sharp glint in her eyes and a hunched back, seeming to be a bit around 800 years of age. The elven golden hair and long ears are the standard distinctive traits.

I received the reward, and when I left the store, I let out a sigh when I saw the sky full of stars.

It's been 3 weeks since I've arrived at this other world.

One way or another, it's about the time when I begin to get used to this way of life.

When I was on Earth, I was working as a cleaner and exterminator when I was crushed to death by collapsing garbage in a trashed house, and it seems this world's god picked me up.

At first I didn't know how things would turn out, but when I realized that here was a world that was like an RPG game, I began to get used to this world.

I entered the Adventurers Guild and received the standard battle training, but I, who had no talent in swords nor talent in magic, was largely unchanged from when I was on Earth, and so I decided that my living would consist mainly of cleaning and exterminating.

Today I also went to the Adventurers Guild and found a cleaning job.

Work that's not monster or magical beast subjugation isn't popular work, so no matter how many there are, I'm able to get one every day.

The town I'm in is also a ways from the Royal Capital and the monsters and magic beasts around here are weak, so there aren't a lot of Adventurers, it seems.

Even so, they say that around 200 people are registered.

For the drugstore cleaning job, I got five 10 Nott silver coins.

Nott is the currency's denomination.

I don't know about other countries, but in this country, 1 Nott is a copper coin, 10 Notts is a silver coin, 100 Notts is a gold coin.

By the way, I still don't know this country's name.

Maa, I think I'll probably come to know it if I don't panic and take my time assembling the information about this place.

I inform the completion of the request at the Adventurers Guild reception desk.

The Guild also has an inn built into it.

The inn's fee is 20 Notts, so 30 Notts will be left over.

I want to rent my own place soon, so I turn it into savings.

When I go to return to my inn room, the fox beast-girl receptionist called out for me to stop.

"Naoki-san! Wait a minute!"

"Something up?"

"I have a request for you, see."

"A request? Is there a request that a beginner like me can do?"

"Yes; you've pretty much been only taking cleaning and extermination requests, right?"

"Yes; I've pretty much not left this town."

Ever since I came to this world, I pretty much entered the nearest town and never left even once.

I'm different from the Adventurers who fight goblins and field bears and the like.

They might be laughing at me from the shadows, but I don't know most of the words so I don't care.

The conversation with receptionist just now is also a conversation conveyed with gestures.

The request that came to me was that the rat magic beasts in the sewers have multiplied, so they want them exterminated.

It seems that the requester is from the government officials of this town, so they say that the income is good.

Because I don't know where the way to the sewers are, I asked the female receptionist to draw me a map.

The next day I went to the town hall, and when I brokenly told them that I was someone from the Guild who came to exterminate the rats, I was given a once over and asked, "Are you going to be okay in that outfit?"

My outfit right now is an up and down blue jumper, exactly that of a cleaner on Earth.

"Maa, it's fine."

When I brokenly told him that, the government official sniffed, then handed me a map of the sewers.

The deadline is 9 days, so it's a matter of subduing as many of the large number of rat monsters called "Masmascal" as I can.

The remuneration seems to be 5 Notts per each one.

If I hunt 100 rats, that's 500 Notts.

It seems like my dream of renting my own place is within reach.

I immediately go to the Elf's Pharmacy from yesterday's cleaning request and ask if there was any rat poison.

With body language, hand gestures, and even a drawing, Camilla Obaa-san understood; there wasn't any drugs that killed only rats, but there were drugs that caused damage to most monsters.

For just the amount I wanted, it was a 100 Nott charge.

When I asked her to make it lower, it seems that if I come once in a while to clean it will be 10 Notts.

All of a sudden it went down 10:1.

After cheating an old woman who didn't have any business, I got my hands on a large can of poison.

By the way, when I tried asking if there were any open rooms in the area, it seems that the drugstore's second floor is open.

If I do the cleaning, I can live there.

She said the rent is 150 Notts for 30 days.

I make a temporary booking and leave the store.

Somehow, it seems that Camilla is interested in me.

Before I return to the inn, I procure coarse flour, water, and honey, and from the butcher I was given, for free, the blood and fat of monsters they were going to throw away.

Either my sales smile that I boldly attacked with did its duty, or maybe it just crept them out; I'm not sure which, but the butcher manager filled a bucket with a ton of blood and fat.

When I went to the Guild, naturally the Adventurers all pulled away and I was instructed to go around to the back where the well was.

I spread out a cloth next to the well; there I will produce my special rat poison.

It's something like hosan-dumpling cockroach bait.

I make the flour and poisonous herbs into dumplings, then adjust the scent with the

blood and fat.

The plan is to try and make around 100, then tomorrow, I'll try it in full force.

There's still some materials left.

I put the finished rat-killer dango in a sack, ate the meat-set that didn't have its usual taste at the Guild's cafeteria, and went to bed for today.

Chapter 2

The next morning, while looking at the map, I entered the opening to the sewers, opened the grate with the key I got from the town hall, and went inside.

The sewers are dark; without a torch you wouldn't be able to see anything.

As for my case, my helmet has a light attached, so there aren't any problems.

If this light runs out of battery, it'll be all over.

Are they startled by being lit up by the light; large rats scurry off.

I guess those are masmascal.

The sewers are brickwork, so I was reminded of a European film.

I steadily continue forward along the path on the side of the sewers, placed the poison rat dumplings in the corners and in the shadows of the bricks, and finally went outside.

I ate my meal at a food stall and, returning to the sewers, although it was rather soon, 3 masmascals were dead.

I cut off the rats' tails, the part that's called the proof of subjugation, collected the dead bodies together and tied them in an unneeded cloth.

Later, pests are unwanted around because they can spread diseases, so I will go to a vacant lot on the edge of town to burn them.

Since it seems that my strength won't hold out, I finish laying everything out before noon and end my work.

The sewers run throughout the entirety of the town, so they're somewhat large.

When the light's beams hit the masmascal I met, the instant their eyes were dazzled I stomped them or kicked them into the sewers to be drowned; I have taken down around 10.

Showing the subjugation proofs of the tails, I got 50 Notts.

“You were able to defeat 10 of them the very next day after receiving the request!”

The government official seems to be very surprised.

“Is there a tool that can make fire?”

When he heard that, he said,

“Isn’t it fine to use magic for that?”

“I haven’t been an adventurer for long, and I don’t have any ability for magic so I can’t use it.”

When I said that, he admired me with,

“Even though you can’t light a flame, you did well inside the sewers.”

“I want to burn the bodies of the masmascal who ate poison.”

“If it’s for that, toss them into the forest. The goblins and slimes will probably eat them.”

“Just in case, so that people who are troubled for food won’t eat them, please write ‘Poison’ on the cloth.”

When I asked, the government official, with characters that you wouldn’t see on Earth, wrote on the cloth containing the masmascal bodies while laughing.

Exiting the town hall, I go to the edge of town.

There is a forest across the meadows.

In about the middle of the meadow I throw the cloth with the bodies in it towards the forest with a long throw.

“Ma, I guess it’s fine.”

As of yet, I haven’t had any desire to enter the forest.

There’s goblins and the like, and the children-types of monsters crawling all over; it’s an insane place, isn’t it?

Moreover, it seems like for beginners, there have been incidents where they’ve had their heads split by an axe.

I don't want to take that kind of risk.

The masmascal subjugation; there's 8 days left.

Let's do it patiently.

The next day, when I awoke, the morning sun was flowing in the window; I'm feeling really good.

It's like I'm overflowing with power; thinking that I grabbed the doorknob, and just like that the doorknob broke off.

Crap.

What do I do?

Anyway, for now I stick it back on.

When I told the receptionist, I was asked whether I had defeated monsters in the forest.

"No, I didn't defeat any. Why did you ask that?"

And, when I asked,

"Breaking the doorknob is something that happens a lot to adventurers who don't know their own strength when their levels suddenly go up."

Was the reply that came.

When I showed her the Adventurer's Card that was made when I entered the Guild to be safe, she said my level went up by 10.

Wait wait; in the first place, there's a level system in this world? I leave that question for now and ask for an explanation about Status and Skills.

According to the receptionist, the living creatures in this world have levels; when you defeat a monster it seems like their experience points in full enter into you.

As for Skills, adventurers are endowed with Skill Trees; you acquire Skill Points when you level, and by allocating them you can learn Skills.

Immediately, I allocate the Skill Points from leveling up to the Language Ability.

My Status is

Endurance: 55

Magic Power: 28

Speed: 30

Strength: 42

Sturdiness: 26

Wisdom: Unknown

It's like that.

Wisdom is unknown because I have common sense from Earth, and because it can change be changed quite a bit with equipment, the fox-eared receptionist smiled and informed me to not to overestimate or underestimate it accordingly.

Today as well, it's the sewers.

In the skill's magic list there's Fire Magic, so immediately I allocate points to it.

From my finger, when the orange-colored, flickering flame came out from my finger, I was moved.

If you overuse it, it can cause your magic power to run out, so I will carefully use it.

Turning on the helmet's light, when I looked towards the wall, there were masmascal bodies all over the place.

The might of the poison rat dumplings are satisfactory; one after another I cut off the tails; the bodies go in a hemp bag.

For now there's about 100 of them; once I gather their bodies together, I went outside.

When I checked my Adventurer Card, my level went up by 2 and became 14.

I can't tell whether this portion is the experience points from defeating the masmascal

with the poison rat dumplings, or if it's experience points from monsters that died after eating the masmascal corpses that I threw out into the forest, but either way, through a method that gave me easy gains, I've earned experience points.

If I level up at this pace, then I can hit max level more quickly than I thought.

Thinking like that, I divide the bodes and tie them into a cloth.

Leaving the town, once again, in about the middle of the meadow, I threw the body bag.

The throw was about 10 meters, respectively; in total I threw 10 body bags.

If they're eaten, then I can expect to see even more level ups.

Returning to town I go to the town hall, handed over 100 tails, and received 500 Notts.

The government official was surprised, but there's more to come, I told him fluently.

Thanks to the freedom given with the Language ability, being able to understand even small talk is fun.

Leaving the town hall, I immediately head towards Camilla's Elf's Pharmacy to request that I be allowed to rent out the 2nd floor room.

When I presented 3 months' rent all at once, Camilla's was so surprised her eyes turned into dots.

Carrying this much money, I'll use it by spending it all on things I don't need, so let's quickly use it for necessities.

When I was shown the room on the second floor, it's completely become a storage room.

It seems it's pretty much all unneeded things, so it was fine for me to use what I could use without permission; if I don't need it then throw it away.

Although there isn't a mat, it's good that there's a bed.

Throwing out the unneeded things, sweeping it out, and wiping it down with a dust cloth, it's become a splendid living space.

For the bath there's a public bath nearby; the toilet and kitchen are shared on the 1st

floor in Camilla's main building, so she led me to them.

For living on my own for the first time in this world, it's not bad.

The landlady is also kind, so I feel reassured.

Chapter 3

I finished my lunch at the food stalls, and once again I headed to the sewers.

I repeated what I had done in the morning, gathering 100 masmascal corpses and cutting off the tails, dividing the bodies into 10 equal parts, putting them in bags, then going outside and throwing them into the forest.

The placed rat poison dumplings have been reduced, so within the sewers I made them.

It was easy to make since I had the materials; I didn't want to stink up my new home.

When I finished setting them out, I returned to my new home.

Up until the last day, continuing on like this, my level rose to 38.

It seems like there aren't any adventurers who raise their level from 2 to 30 in just 9 days; the Guild receptionist advised me to keep the method hidden.

Hide it or whatever, if they go to the town hall it will be found out, though.

In the end, the subjugated masmascal exceeded 1000; because the town hall wept that they hadn't budgeted for this much, we settled on 3000 Notts.

For the time being, it seems like I won't be troubled for money.

My Status is

Endurance: 170

Magic Power: 102

Speed: 91

Strength: 138

Sturdiness: 89

Wisdom: Unknown

Like that it's gone up drastically.

If the max level is 99, then I wonder if I can be considered as a middle-class adventurer.

Although I haven't fought monsters or magical beasts even once, though.

By the way, other than Fire Magic level 1, I haven't allocated any other Skill Points.

In this world, I don't know which Skills would be useful for cleaning and extermination.

And on that note, when I went to the main building to ask Camilla, a pretty elf girl-san was there compounding medicine.

"Whwhwhwhwhat is it, so suddenly! If you're going to come in, at least knock on the door!"

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry; by the way, may I ask who you are? Camilla's granddaughter, is it?"

"E? Aa! Yes, I am Camilla's granddaughter, Ca, Chamomile!"

Somehow, it feels like her responding voice was all flustered.

Or like, it's Camilla's exact same voice, so it's probably Camilla developing a medicine that restores youth, or normally she's pretending to be old, one or the other.

If she was developing rejuvenating medicine, then you would be proud of your amazingness.

In that case, she's pretending to be old and going out to the store like that.

For what reason? Does medicine sell better that way?

I see, I can kind of understand it.

Rather than buying the medicine of an elf that looks about 20 years old by appearance, the medicine of an old elf seems like it would be more effective.

"And so, Camilla. I have a question, you see."

"I, I'm Chamomile. What is your question?"

"I'd like you to teach me what Skills are necessary for cleaning and exterminating harmful insects and harmful animals."

"F,for that it would be fine to go ask at the Guild, right?"

“Recently, the people at the Guild have been desperately trying to get me to change my weapons and equipment and enter the forest; they don’t want to listen to me at all.”

It’s probably because my level rose.

“*Fu~n*, well, it’s fine. For cleaning, there’s Life Magic like Clean Up, so I think allocating points to Life Magic would be good. It’s just, it’s said that you have to raise it to level 5 or it’s worthless. You don’t see people who have it much other than nobles’ butlers or maids.”

“I see.”

As soon as I heard it, I raised the level to 5.

For only butlers and maids in noble houses and no one else to have them, that means that the idea of ‘cleaning’ commoners’ homes probably hasn’t yet occurred.

Looks like I can do business.

“I don’t really know for exterminating harmful insects and harmful pests. I guess it would be compounding poisonous plants, ne. Maa, if you raise the Compounding Skill then you will naturally learn that, right? A, it might be better to also have the Search Skill. Looking for harmful insects can be difficult, I think.”

“So that’s it! I see, thanks. You’ve saved me, Camilla!”

“No, if anything happens, just ask this landlady!... A!”

When Camilla had dug her own grave, I softly closed the door and returned to my own room.

For now, I try raising the Compounding Skill to level 5.

It seems like recipes won’t just install inside my head with this.

However, if you combine that and that on the shelves of the pharmacy, it seems like it will restore stamina; that’s the kind of thing I understand.

My knowledge isn’t enough, so let’s borrow a book about this subject from Camilla.

Thinking that the Search Skill is something that won’t be troubling to have, I try raising it to level 10 in one go.

For Skills, 10 is the highest it will go, so I've raised it to the max.

When I search, the map of the entirety of the town appeared in me head; I understand the green lights are the locations where people I know are, and other people I don't know are the blue lights.

The range also extends to the vicinity of the forest; within that are things that are red lights; those are probably monsters, I suppose.

Incidentally, it's possible to see underground and high levels in the map like it's 3D.

In the sewers I saw the escaped masmascal wandering about.

If they increase, it might be a good idea to let the government officials to put it in their budget.

Surprisingly, it seems like monsters are hiding inside the town.

I can see that there are some red lights on the map of the town.

Maa, for now I'll leave them be.

Rather than those, the most important thing right now is bedding.

There's no mattress.

In this world there's no sheep's wool, so it's the fur of the sheeplike monster, goatsheep, that's circulating, but recently, there's a downward trend (in production) so the prices are high.

I thought that covering it in a layer of straw would be fine, but the mattress used on the bed in the inn was not comfortable.

Now then, what should I do?

Rather, why not allocate points to the Sewing Skill and make it myself?

But if I do that, it feels like I'll regret it, naa.

Un, un, while groaning, I came down the stairs from the second floor, and old-lady form Camilla called out to me.

"What's wrong, having such a stern face? Does your stomach hurt?"

“No, it’s not that, I want a mattress for the bed, but... it’s expensive, ne.”

“You received a lot of remuneration from the town hall, right? You won’t receive a punishment even if you indulge yourself a little.”

“N~maa, there’s that too, but no matter what I live frugally, ne. I was thinking that if there wasn’t anything good around, I’d make it myself. And so, I was thinking I could take the Sewing Skill, but as expected my frugality came out and I don’t want to use my Skill Points.”

“You’re a shocking man, aren’t you? Then, wouldn’t it be fine to find someone with the Sewing Skill? If you are so inclined, you can also try making a request in the Guild.”

“I see; by the way, would Camilla happen to know anyone?”

“N~, maa, if it’s the wife on the ranch and people who work in workshops then they might have it, ne. Because their clothing would tear often.”

“I see, thanks. I’m going to go out for a bit and try.”

The ranch was on top of a hill a little ways away from the town.

If you go by the path where wagons have left furrows, you pretty much won’t meet monsters or magical beasts.

Lazily climbing the hill, I saw a herd of goatsheep eating grass behind the fence.

Everyone at the ranch seems to be sheep beastmen, with ears that wrap around the head at an angle.

“Hallo-!”

“Hello.”

The girl sheep beastman who happened to pass close by called out to me.

“Is there anyone here at this ranch that has the Sewing Skill?”

“Heh? Sewing? If it’s that, then pretty much everyone here does, I think.”

“A, is that so! Then, could I get a bed mattress made?”

“We could do make it, but usually you would go ask a Tailor-san.”

“Is that so? Then, there’s no one here...”

“Are you looking for a mattress?”

“Yes.”

“Excuse me, but what is your occupation?”

“Tentatively I’m an adventurer, but originally I’m a specialist in cleaning and pest extermination.”

“Is that so? Um. About the clothes you’re wearing...”

What I’m wearing is my usual coveralls.

“What is it about these?”

“Exactly what are those clothes?”

“Even if you ask me ‘what’ they are... they’re laborers’ clothes. It makes things easier. And if the top is separate from the trousers, if filth and splinters get in the trousers it’s a pain.”

“That, how do you wear it?”

“E? Like this.”

So saying I pull down the zipper from my neck and show her the inner.

“Amazing! What is this!? Wai, wait a second, please! I’m going to bring everyone over.”

So saying, the girl sheep beastman ran off, entered the house, and, talking excitedly, brought the sheep beastmen over.

Everyone all together looked at the coveralls like they were some rare thing.

It can’t be helped so I stripped to my cargo shorts and T-shirt, and when I gave them my coveralls to look at, immediately, they had to make a paper pattern so they took off back to the house, returning with tools in hand.

I was asked about the zipper, but they were shocked when I told them it was made by a machine.

When they asked if I was someone from the capital, I replied with, “Well, something like that.”

Actually, I don't know how far the development of this world's cities are, but I guess if it's a zipper there would be some, with that underestimation, at a future date it became something dreadful.

That is for another occasion.

When every one of the sheep beastmen had tried on the coverall, ascertaining its comfortableness, it was returned to me.

When I tried asking for a mattress, saying that it would be thanks for showing them a really great item, as expected, I was told right now was the season where there wasn't much goatsheep fur.

When it got a little colder the fur would get longer, so at that time I should come back.

It seems like they'll make one for no charge.

As lucky as that is, as I was thinking about what I was going to do before it got cold, the sheep beastmen told me that the rabbit monsters in the forest have good fur.

The rabbit monsters are monsters called forabbits, and it's said they're weaker than goblins.

If it's like that then I think it would be fine for me to enter the forest and capture them, but when I think about the labor involved in skinning and tanning, it seems like it would be better to buy it at a store, or put out a request at the Guild.

I thanked the sheep beastmen, and then left the ranch.

Chapter 4

When I looked at the forabbit furs at the store, it's somewhat cheap but they were used. It's been a while so let's go look at the Guilds requests.

Even though I've taken Guild requests, I haven't put any requests out.

Everything's an experience, and there probably isn't anything to lose, so I went to the Guild.

Looking at the inside of the Guild with the Search Skill, I understand that it's swarming full of monsters and the like.

The adventurers who utilize monsters are many so it's not like it's a rare thing, but this is way too many.

Furthermore, when I enter, the monsters are sitting in chairs with self-important faces, drinking alcohol.

Their appearances are exactly like human, beastmen, and subspecies, but I guess they're something like ghost-type monsters performing mimicry.

The Guild leaves it alone, so I guess it's no problem.

I go to the receptionist and tell her I want to make a request.

"What kind of request is it?"

"I want forabbit furs."

"If it's that then you can buy them from the town's clothing stores and furniture stores."

"No, I want unused items. The quality can be just as good as they can manage, though."

"*Fu~n*, maa, that's fine. How much will the quest reward be?"

"Would 30 Notts be too high?"

In the store 30 Notts was on the expensive side.

“Even if it’s unused goods, recently there are beginners bringing them in as subjugation proof, so how about around 20 Notts?”

“Then, make it 20 Notts.”

“Understood. Your Adventurer’s Card please. We have to make records of the requester, see.”

When I handed over the Adventurer’s Card, the receptionist looked at me suspiciously.

“Did your level go up again? And have you looked at your status?”

There’s a 40 written in the level field on the back of the card.

I imagine that some monsters ate the poisoned corpses of the masmascal in the forest.

If a monster that preys on the corpses dies from the poison, I really do get the experience points, so it’s a snowballing effect of experience point gain.

What an extremely convenient level up system.

Looking at the contents of that status, I quickly put out the request.

The receptionist pinned the parchment with my request on it to the board.

“Is it okay to leave all these ghosts around?”

I asked it without any sort of intentions, but the receptionist turned blue.

“What is it?”

“You can see them?”

“No, well, of course I can see them. There’s this many, after all.”

“Truthfully we’re quite troubled over it, even if we want to subjugate them they immediately erase their forms or dive into the ground, so subjugation is quite difficult.”

“I see. Then, what about sprinkling them with holy water?”

“It is effective, but pretty soon they come gathering back here again, and the Church and the Guild are on bad terms with one another so it’s a situation where it’s difficult to get our hands on holy water.”

So the receptionist, whose eyebrows are shaped like “ノ”, told me.

“And if they drink recovery potions?”

“Recovery potions, that expensive wound medicine?”

“A, it’s expensive?”

“It’s really expensive. Of course it is, it can instantly revive a person on the brink of death!”

“If it’s the ghost-types, it seems it would be really effective, right?”

“Well yeah, it would, but the Guild doesn’t have that kind of budget.”

“By the way, is that a request that’s put out?”

“The Guild puts it up, but the ghost terrors immediately tear it down.”

The ghost terrors, that’s the name of those monsters, I guess.

“How much is the remuneration?”

“1500 Notts and all-you-can-eat from the inn’s cafeteria.”

I don’t need the all-I-can-eat, but the 1500 Notts has some appeal.

That’s 10 months of rent.

I have the 3000 Nott remuneration from the masfascal subjugation in full on hand, so I’m not troubled for money at all, but I pity the people who work at the Guild.

When I ask about it, it seems like the high-ranking adventurers and the Guild superiors tried to defeat them once, but they spring up one after another and they aren’t that harmful so they were just left alone, she said.

“You’ll do it!? You might be nominated to do requests for ghost exterminations, is that fine!?”

“N-theen, I guess I’ll do it~.”

“You’re eager, aren’t you?”

“Un, I don’t need the all-you-can-eat, so could I get some other remuneration for that?”

“For example?”

“Let’s see... like a date voucher?”

“D-d-d-d-date!!! is it?”

Breathing roughly through her nose, the receptionist looked at me in surprise.

“Weell. I don’t even know the name of this country yet, and I don’t even know where the next town over is. So that’s why I’ve been wanting someone to teach me, but I haven’t had a chance, ne. I heard books are expensive, and if I’m walking with someone through the town, asking questions about this and that, I thought, wouldn’t that be nice.”

“A, a, if that’s what it was...”

The receptionist, with upturned eyes, nodded.

Got it!

“Then, 1500 Notts and a date voucher!”

I left the receptionist and finally left the Guild.

If this goes well, then it looks like I’ll be able to go on a date with an animal-ear girl!

Quickly, I return to Elf’s Pharmacy, taking the things that look like they could be used for recovery potions from the medicine left on the shelves.

“What the, what the? You intend to make recovery potions?”

The old-lady form Camilla asked me.

“Un, that’s right. Camilla, would you teach me the compounding proportions?”

“So you’re asking me to teach you the secret techniques of the elves?”

“No, if you can’t then I can go buy a book, and if I raise my Compounding Skill to level 10 I can manage I guess, is what I was thinking, but I thought asking a professional would be best.”

“You, have you raised your Compounding Skill to level 3 or higher?”

“Un, right now it’s 5.”

“Then, the Skill called Pharmacy should have appeared, it should.”

In the Skill Tree, there's that Pharmacy.

"A, I see! If you level this one, it's the recipes."

"Maa, it's like that. After that, I'll lend you some of my books."

Camilla retreated into the main room and returned carrying about 10 books.

"Actually, the Pharmacy Skill level can go up by reading books without using any Skill points. If you don't want to waste Skill Points, proceed by first reading books."

"Got it. Thank you!"

I accepted the books and went up to my room on the 2nd floor.

I raised the Compounding Skill up to level 10 and afterwards I read books; and that is how I passed the day.

I read 3 books, with Camilla teaching me the details, learned the method to making recovery potions, and when I made it my Pharmacy Skill had increased to level 3.

It looks like Camilla was displeased that my compounding was too good so she was pouting, but one way or another she came and assisted me.

Because it was already the middle of the night, I retired for the day.

For now, this time the Skill values are

Level 40

Language Ability

Life Magic Level 5

Fire Magic Level 1

Compounding Skill Level 10

Detection Skill Level 10

Pharmacy Level 3

The leftover Skill Points are 13.

It's like that.

Chapter 5

Starting from the morning, I read and compounded medicine the next day as well, ending in the morning hours.

Thanks to the level of Compounding rising, my medicine production is steadily getting better; at around the time I ate lunch, the level of Pharmacy had become 5.

Camilla was bitterly jealous, with “Even though it took me how many years to get to this point?”

When Pharmacy became level 5, the Skill Alchemy appeared on the Skill Tree.

However, Alchemy has already become level 10.

Perhaps in this world, chemistry and science fall under Alchemy.

Arithmetic has also appeared on the Skill Tree, but it’s at level 8.

In my student years, I wasn’t good at arithmetic after all.

As for Camilla, she’d be jealous again so I kept all of THAT a secret.

With the influence from manga and anime I thought that Alchemy is the kind of thing where you draw all those magic circles, but asking Camilla, for drawing magic circles it seems there’s the Skill called Magic Circle Studies.

However, you need both Alchemy and Arithmetic for Magic Circle Studies, so it’s said that it’s faster to get it by raising the normal Magic Skill, in which you wouldn’t need to do all of that.

Trying it out, when I raised Arithmetic up to level 10, the Magic Circle Studies Skill appeared.

For now, I’ll raise it up to 5.

With this,

Level 40

Language Ability

Life Magic Level 6

Fire Magic Level 1

Compounding Skill Level 10

Detection Skill Level 10

Pharmacy Level 5

Alchemy Level 10

Arithmetic Level 10

Magic Circle Studies 5

The leftover Skill Points are 6.

To the me who went back to reading once again, Camilla called out to me, with a daring grin,

“It’s hard to raise Pharmacy after level 5, after all.”

Hearing that, I immediately allocated the Skill Points and Pharmacy was level 10.

“Dammit-! This is doping! It’s an oppressive monopoly by high-level people!”

Ignoring Camilla’s voice, I made a large amount of recovery potions.

The Skill Points leftover have become 1, but I got a lot of different kinds of Skills so it’s all good.

Camilla has been staying cooped up in the pharmacy so it seems she hasn’t reached level 20, and it’s gotten quite difficult to avoid wasting Skill Points.

Listening to that kind of story about her hardships, I made a high-purity recovery potion, and when I made to put it in a bottle that was nearby, Camilla stopped me.

“You, do you think it’s okay to put this kind of thing in such a crude bottle?”

“It’s fine, right? I can make it again after all.”

“...At least use a washed and dried bottle! If you don’t, I won’t be able to accept it at all inside!”

And so, having that kind of incomprehensible thing said to me, I accepted a washed bottle and put the high-purity recovery potion in it.

I put it in the bag like usual and headed to the Guild.

For some reason, at that time, Camilla also pouted, “Handle it with more care!” while she sent me off.

When I arrived at the Guild, I went around to where they put out the alcohol in the cafeteria and dripped a small amount of recovery potion in the sake barrels.

If it’s a normal human or demi-human then you would only recover stamina, but if it’s a ghost terror than it should take damage.

The effect was instantaneous.

Just when I thought I was beginning to hear death throes all over the place in the Guild, one after another, the ghost terrors who had taken human and demi-human forms changed into their original spirit-like forms, and just like that were extinguished.

I was sitting in a chair near the reception desk, watching over the outcome.

All at once, after the death throes ended, it felt like the number of people within the Guild was reduced by about half.

Looking at the backside of my Adventurer’s Card, my level had risen to 57.

I entrust the recovery potion to the cafeteria’s obaa-chan, requesting her to drip a little of this in the alcohol casks if she thought that the ghost terrors had increased again.

I received 1500 Notts from the fox beastman receptionist and consulted with her about the day of the date.

We decided that the date would be in 4 days.

The forabbit skin seems to have already been received, so I paid 20 Notts and took it.

Returning to the Elf's Pharmacy, I handed over 900 Notts for 6 months of rent, as well as 580 Notts for the medicinal materials, teaching, and miscellaneous expenses to Camilla.

Camilla was shocked, but there's the borrowing fee for the books too, and without Camilla's help, this time's request wouldn't have been completed; lifting her up like that, she bashfully said, "I see, I see," and received it happily.

According to Camilla, the high-purity recovery potion I made is a product where 1000 Notts would have been too cheap, so she said, "I can't tell whether you made a profit or took a loss."

My Skill Points also increased, and my goal wasn't money so it's probably fine.

I'm looking forward to 4 days from now.

Now then, for the next 4 days I don't have anything I have to do.

I've roughly assembled the goods for daily living, and the Guild's request is also ended.

There is also no need for money, for a while.

While cleaning the pharmacy adequately, spacing out while thinking, I decided to stick my hands into Magic Circle Studies.

It was written in one of the books I borrowed from Camilla that something called powdered magic stones were needed for Magic Circle Studies.

Magicstone powder seems to be something that's used as paint materials, or when you need to raise your magic's might; in this world they are circulated as such, Camilla had said.

I went out into the town to look for a paint supply shop, but the guards in the middle

of their patrol around town told me that first, this town doesn't have something like a paint supply shop, and then, if I don't go to the capital I won't be able to find one.

When I asked, "Is it not possible to get magicstone powder?" they told me that if that's what it is, then if I go to the accessory shop stalls and jewelers, they'll be selling kuzu powder in a bag.

Going around the stalls, I buy as much magicstone powder as there was available.

One bag was about 10 Notts.

Once I had bought 20 bags, my satchel was stuffed to the max.

By the way, the satchel that I bought at a second-hand shop is a shoulder-bag type of a greenish brown color.

Magic Circle Studies is already level 5, so I already understand the effects and theory to some extent.

However, because I haven't done it before, I don't know the strength.

If I do it in front of people and a pillar of fire lights up, it will cause a fuss.

Now then, what will happen?

As I thought, I should leave town and do it in the forest, huh?

My level is already 57, and my Status is also around there, so I guess I can win against the goblins and the like.

It's just, somehow I hesitate to step out of the town.

Is this coverall look ok?

If that's the case, should I buy armor from the armor shop?

Should I also prepare weapons from a weapon shop?

Hang on, before that, what would my weapon be?

I didn't take that kind of Skill, you know.

During the Adventurer's Guild training I had a bad time of it, didn't I?

In practice, even if it's a goblin it might be able to do me in.

Giving those kinds of excuses, I gave up on leaving town.

With it becoming like that, it became a search for whether there are convenient workshops or deserted houses.

Once again I stopped passing guards and asked.

“A deserted house? What do you want to do in such a place?”

“No, well, I wanted to do experiments there...”

“Experiments?”

“Yeah, for Magic Circle Studies...”

“Magic Circle Studies? No way! There shouldn’t be any young people like you who have mastered Alchemy, I imagine.”

So he said.

Thanks to my former world, Alchemy was maxed just like that; originally, if you didn’t spend a long period of months and years, it wouldn’t level up.

“No no, it’s Magic practice. For Life Magic! Actually, I want to master Clean Up, see. I’m aiming to be a butler for an estate in the future!”

“I see! Is that so! If that’s the case, I know of a good mansion. On the north side of town, there’s a cemetery in the mountains, right? Near that there should be a mansion covered in ivy. If it’s there, I think you can practice when there’s nobody around. However, if it happens to have become a gathering spot for any bandits or bad company, please let us know at once!”

“Understood! Thank you very much.”

“No, no, it wasn’t much, it wasn’t much.”

The guards who parted from me went back to their patrol.

Chapter 6

When I went to the road the soldiers told me about, sure enough, there was a mansion covered in ivy near the cemetery.

There was a lock on the gate, but when I pushed it, it easily opened.

“Pardon my intrusion...”

Concealing the sounds of my footsteps I entered through the gate and saw a garden that had once been taken care of, where flowers grew in great profusions and weeds grew as much as they wanted, pretty much untouched by human hands.

However, the path that continued to the mansion’s door had short weeds growing in it, and evidence that it had recently been used.

In one corner of the garden, herb-types and medicinal plants were growing, en masse; they’ve stretched up nearly to the window.

Peeking into the window, within is the kitchen; the roof and walls have crumbled so the sunlight shines in directly.

I’m here after such great pains, so let’s steal some herbs and try to make suitable medicines in the kitchen.

There’s no person who’s a landlord for this house, so no matter what I make no one will care.

Opening the leaning door, I enter the kitchen.

Inside, herbs are growing through the walls and wooden floor.

Here and there the floor is loose, so I have to pay attention.

The floor in front of the kettle is made of stone, so there is where I’ll draw the magic circle.

Producing drinking water with Life Magic, I mix it with magicstone powder and go to draw the magic circle.

Joining up the geometrically patterned circular formation, when I placed a nearby branch into the middle of the circle, in a flash the branch disappeared, and I understood that the magic circle had become hot.

It's an improvised induction heater.

Putting the herbs and medicinal plants in the pot I made clean with Clean Up, I simmered it.

From the ingredients, it looks like I can make poison and paralysis preventatives, but it doesn't seem like I can hope for anything more.

Exactly what was the landlord trying to protect himself against?

At that moment, the sound like that of a winged insect flying came from above the house.

I used Detection Skill there, finally, and understood the full story of this house.

I understood that in this 3 story house, from the 2nd floor to the 3rd floor, it has become a beehive.

Moreover they're giant bees, so there are even ones around the size of a medium-sized dog.

In a back room on the 3rd floor, a cow-sized queen bee is enshrined.

Furthermore, I discovered that in this mansions basement are 3 people, humans and demi-humans.

I immediately erase the magic circle and leave the pot.

Outside, oversized wasps have begun to fly around.

I don't know how strong these bees are nor what kind of poison they have, but the people in the cellar are alive, so they might know some countermeasures.

From the kitchen I crossed the entryway, proceeded down the corridor in front of the dining room, and proceeded to the basement by way of the staircase.

During that time, cautious of the sounds of the bees' wings and the floors above, I

hurried while trying to make as little sound as possible.

When I opened the basement door, it was pretty much pitch black so I turned on the light.

Lighting up where I would step, I descended the stairs and opened the door.

There was a lock, but it easily opened.

In the basement was a prison with iron bars, and within are two beastmen.

One is a reptile-type young female beastkin with scales on her neck; the other is an elderly dog beastman.

The two of them are looking over here.

In front of the prison is a human man sprawled out on a straw mat, sleeping.

“It’s finally... time to change shifts, huh...”

The exhausted looking, emaciated man slowly awoke.

“You! Who are you?!”

The man who saw me took out a knife and thrust it out.

“A, no, uh-. I just wanted to know the way to defeat the bee monsters up there, though...”

“You! How did you open the lock? What the hell are you?!”

“What, you say, I’m a pest exterminator, though...”

“Haa!? What the hell are you saying?!”

The man seems to be in a state of confusion, and he came swinging the knife to intimidate me.

However, on top of being emaciated he seems to have weakened, huh; his movements are sluggish, or like completely without energy, so it has no impact.

“Uoooooraaaa!”

The man is cutting my arm with the knife, but he let go of the knife that didn’t pierce through my skin.

At the clang sounding from the knife falling, the man who had been watching it looked

at me, and just when I thought he was trembling with fear, he slipped past my side and ran away.

While screaming, it seems he encountered a bee monster in front of the ascending stairs, so the instant a scream sounded, a blue dot on the Detection Skill disappeared.

Anyway, it would be bad if we were found by the bees, so I drew a magic circle on the door; it's a trap stuck on where invaders from the outside will be blasted with a windstorm.

Actually, after that the trap was activated several times. The magic circle lit up in pale blue, and from the door that sounded with wind, I saw red dots being blown away with Detection Skill.

Calming down the 2 frightened people behind the iron bars, I opened the iron-barred door.

Because the hinges were the inset type, by lifting it up it was easily opened.

I would imagine this is thanks to leveling up and increasing my Strength numbers."

Hearing the two of their stories, I understood that the two of them are slaves and this is a hidden place for slave-trafficking.

Since they haven't been given meals in a while, it seems neither of them have much strength.

Producing drinking water with Life Magic, I gave it to the two of them and ask about the bee monsters.

Those bees are monsters called vespahornets, with needles in their rears that, when they sting you, poison floods through your entire body and paralyzes you, they told me.

They crunch up their paralyzed prey with strong jaws, which is why they're terrifying.

I asked whether there were countermeasures, but it seems like they don't know.

The man in front of the prison seems to be a hired hand as well; the slave trader is yet

another person, but recently they haven't seen him here.

"I think we've been abandoned,"

the elderly dog beastman said.

"Because nobody would want such an old beastman or a cursed beastman."

So saying, while looking at the wrinkles in his palm, he hunched over.

"What do you mean by cursed?"

"I am a survivor of the Gekko Tribe..."

The Gekko Tribe are gecko beastmen, so it seems they can cling to walls and ceilings, are long lived, and are said to be suited for covert operations in conflicts between countries.

However, it would also be easy for them to betray, so they were suspected, and in the end it seems that all members of the entire tribe were made into slaves.

"Because I have the Appraisal Skill, even though I was a slave I was given preferential treatment, but being able to see the truth does not necessarily work out well..."

She was able to see that her hardened shoulder and arm was magic that gradually killed from her master's enemy.

Certainly, petrification should be able to be healed through acupunctural treatment, and if she told him he would shed tears of happiness, but they had no money for the treatment so she kept silent.

Maa, I'll ask Camilla about the petrification, regarding having acupuncture done; for now, let's go outside.

The only exit was swarming with vespahornets, so let's dig a hole and go out through a different spot; when I said so, the two of them looked over here with faces like, "What the hell is this guy saying!?"

Above this basement is the kitchen, the place where I had just been making preventative medicines.

Whether the preventative medicines were also effective on vespahornets or not, there were no monsters around it.

Making a stand of earth with a magic circle, I drew a magic circle on the ceiling and

opened up a hole, easily making it so we can get out through the kitchen.

Giving the preventative medicine in the pot to both of them, we snuck out through the mansion's grounds.

Chapter 7

Explaining the circumstances at the Guild, when I conveyed that a swarm of vespahornets had appeared at the mansion to the west, the Guild staff members made a huge fuss.

It seems that vespahornets are strong monsters, so they said that the only ones capable of suppressing them are high-ranking Adventurer parties.

However, currently the high-ranking parties have gone to the Capital so they would have to be called back, and further more we'll have to warn the citizens not to get close; like that, the receptionist was frightened.

From the adventurers listening around us, I heard the rumor that the old man in charge of the cemetery had been missing for 1 week, so isn't the cause the vespahornets?

Regarding the two slaves, they've already become ownerless so it's become the case where they are the property of the person who found them, that is mine.

When I said, "Then I would like to release both of you from slavery," I was begged, "Please spare us from that."

It is difficult for former slaves to get a job and make a living, so it's far better to be a slave, it seems.

"Then, I will have the intentions of releasing you after you find a job and can live a life without any problems regarding the necessities."

So saying I return to the Elf's Pharmacy for now.

Towards me, who brought an emaciated old man and a female slave home, Camilla was mad with a "What have you done!?", but when I explained the circumstances she understood.

I was going to push the issue with the Gekko Tribe female slave onto Camilla, but she handed me a needle for acupuncture and returned the issue to me, saying that if I stabbed her with a needle covered with high-purity recovery potion it should

naturally heal.

I only brought out soup and bread for the two of them, but I think they were grateful.

Suddenly the old man stopped the hand he was eating with and asked for my name.

When I replied with, "It's Komuro Naoki. Komuro is my family, Naoki is my personal name," Camilla was startled and said, "You have a surname!?"

Come to think of it, I might not have told her my full name.

The old man is Balzack, and the Gekko Tribe girl is Sera; that was their names as they introduced themselves to me.

"We will be in your care from now on."

"Even if you say so, naa. This is the first time for me for slaves and the like, so I don't really understand how it's supposed to go. My intentions are to go about it gently, so don't expect too much of me."

So saying, I direct the two who have finished eating to my room to immediately began performing acupuncture on Sera.

As soon as we were in the room, I made high-purity recovery potion and dipped the needle in it.

The two of them watched me work while looking dumbstruck.

Because I couldn't concentrate while standing, I sat on the bed.

Oh yeah, what am I going to do about both of their beds? Thinking about that, I pierced Sera's shoulder and arm with the coated needle.

Once I had pierced her, in the blink of an eye it healed up.

"Let me serve you for the rest of my life!"

The fully healed Sera prostrated herself and made that declaration.

"No, well, like I said, my work and lifestyle is..."

"If you are unable to, then kill me on this spot!"

"N-. I get it, I get it. I guess right now you'd definitely be feeling like that. It's fine for you to attend to me at my side. It's just, I don't really like that kind of stiff formality, so don't do it again. Be more frank."

“Affirmative.”

“Balzack too, na.”

“Frankly, is it? OK!”

Balzack with his thumbs up is quite frank.

Is it because of the accumulation of his life experiences; he’s flexible in his interactions.

Sera glared at Balzack.

“Master, punishment-!”

“No, no, this much is fine, so Sera should copy it.”

“Affirma... o, OK!”

Sera also replied with a thumbs up.

“Well then. You’ve eaten a meal, so now it’s clothes for both of you and beds, na.”

“I don’t mind if we stay like this! Even when it comes to sleeping we can sleep outside under the eaves.”

“If we do that, then Master will look like an idiot, you know.”

Sera and Balzack each stated their opinions.

“No, well, maa, I don’t mind being called an idiot, nor do I intend to make you sleep under the eaves. It’s just, this house doesn’t have any other rooms that aren’t in use, so I was thinking that we might live in some other place.”

“N,no way! If we do that, then what’s the point of being slaves?”

“Let’s go casually around this neighborhood. I intended to buy a house if it was necessary. Before that, we might find a place for you guys to work. And so, let’s go buy those clothes I mentioned before!”

I use Life Magic’s Clean Up on the two, and with their bodies clean we went outside.

At the second hand store, with the clerk’s assistance, I aimed to buy 3 outfits each and a weeks’ worth of underwear.

By the way, because this world doesn't have bras, it's a chemise.

"If there's anything you want, let me know."

"Then, this hood..."

"Balzack!"

When Balzack came holding a yarn hat-like thing, Sera got mad.

"It's fine, Sera. I'll buy that too, Balzack. Is Sera fine? Then, let's buy this ribbon."

So saying, I added the hood and a ribbon that was on the shelf and bought them.

It seems that recently Balzack has been balding, so he was extremely happy with the hood.

Sera didn't know what to do with the ribbon, being hesitant, so I bundled up her short, golden hair and tied it.

Her face turned bright red, but she seems pleased so it's all good.

As for the beds, I decided to let them sleep at the Guild's inn.

Balzack accepted it graciously, but Sera told me that she didn't want to leave my side no matter what with tears in her eyes.

The Guild seems to be busy due to the vespahornet issue, so for now I book Balzack into a private room and have him come to the Elf's Pharmacy in tomorrow morning.

When I gave Balzack 20 Notts to use in case he got hungry, as expected of Balzack, he refused with, "There are no longer masters who would go to this extent. The slaves will be thought to be spoiled, and in addition the master will be made out to be a fool."

"I don't care if I'm thought of as a fool. Rather than that, I'm more concerned about Balzack's stomach," I said, and forcibly stuffed 1 silver coin (10 Notts) into the pocket of the newly bought clothes.

Balzack saw us off all the way outside, and until we went around the corner in the road, he kept his head bowed the entire time.

On the way, at the secondhand store I bought rabbit furs for Sera's use for her bed, and at a stall I bought 3 people's worth of food.

Dinner is meat and vegetable stirfry with a na'an-like bread, and one bottle of wine.

Sera silently followed me.

Arriving at Elf's Pharmacy, it was right at the time when Camilla was closing shop.

"It looks like pharmaceuticals for insect repellent was needed in great quantities."

Camilla, who was already de-aged, received one person's worth of food while saying that and closed herself up in her personal compounding room.

Insect repellent is for use against the vespahornets, I bet.

We also returned to our room.

When I set two peoples' worth of food on the table,

"Master, what on earth is this? I've never heard of slaves sharing a table with their master."

"Well then, this will be the first dining table shared by a master and slave, na. Come on, I bet you must be hungry, eat!"

Once again, Sera stood upright and rigid, unmoving.

"Sera, sit on the chair. This is an order."

"Affirmati... OK!"

Sera carefully sat on the chair.

"Thanks for the food!"

Even though she said that, Sera didn't start eating.

"Food tastes better when eaten together. I'm begging you, just eat."

"However, Master!"

"Stop that 'Master' thing too! Because it makes me remember a different kind of shop. Naoki is fine."

"However, that's..."

She calmed down with calling me Naoki-sama.

When I said to her that I didn't need a slave that couldn't move because she refused to

eat dinner, she began eating with amazing vigor.

When I told her that taking care of her wellbeing was also an important job, with her mouth full she began to sob.

When we were done eating, I laid out the forabbit fur on the floor.

“Naoki-sama, what is this?”

“Sera’s bed.”

“Please wait! I did say that I didn’t want to leave Naoki-sama’s side, but it wasn’t because I wanted this kind of treatment. In the first place, for a slave to sleep in the same room as the master...”

“Sera! It’s been a pain for a while now! Listen! I don’t really know anything about this world, nor do I know anything about the relationship between slaves and masters. Frankly, I don’t care! But see here, right now you’re my slave, right? Just shut up and listen to me! Got it?!”

“...I got it.”

“Right! Now sleep!”

“...Yes.”

Chapter 8

In the morning, when I awoke, Sera was standing in front of the door watching me.

“Morning.”

“Good morning. Naoki-sama.”

“Did you sleep?”

“Yes.... Um, I have a question, is that okay?”

“What is it?”

“Is Naoki-sama the type who has no interest in women?”

“Haa!? How did it become like that?”

Saying that, my sleepy eyes are wide open now.

“No, um... you didn’t have me attend at night, so I was wondering if you were like that...”

Sera clutched the hem of her clothes with a red face.

“A, is that it. Because you’re a slave that kind of thing is fine. I forgot. But, well, nah, for that thing. If it’s not with a woman you love it’s futile.”

“Futile, is it...?”

Sera’s eyes widened into circles.

“Aa... maa, want to try it next time? Our bodies’ compatibility might be good, and I might come to like it.”

“Naoki-sama is different, ne.”

“Is that so? Please get used to it.”

“Understood.”

When I went to open the door to go to the bathroom, Sera opened the door for me.

On the other side of the door, Balzack was waiting.

“Good morning. Naoki-sama.”

“Morning. You’re up early, na.”

“There is a guest present.”

“Eh? A guest? Who?”

“The one who performs as a receptionist at the Adventurer’s Guild, Irene-sama.”

“Seriously? The date should be in 3 more days, though, na.”

Descending the stairs, Camilla and the receptionist are drinking herb tea.

“O, Naoki. You’ve awakened, ne.”

“Morning, Camilla.”

Underneath Camilla’s eyes were dark circles.

Did she pull an all-nighter yesterday?

“Good morning, Naoki-san.”

“Morning. The date is in 3 days, isn’t it?”

“There is another matter to talk about, so I have intruded this early in the morning.”

“I see. For now, my bladder is about to burst, so after I go to the bathroom I will listen to you.”

When I returned from the bathroom, for some reason the atmosphere was tense.

Camilla was seemed to be displeased and upset, Sera was standing motionlessly upright next to the wall staring at Irene with a face hardened like a noh mask, and Irene was hesitantly peering at the state of those two while sipping herb tea.

“What? What happened?”

I asked Balzack, who was brewing seconds of herb tea.

“I don’t really understand, but for some reason, when they heard Naoki-sama and Irene-sama were going on a date, they seemed to become unhappy.”

“A, should I have kept it a secret? Maa, I can have a date at least, ne?”

“If you ask me, I don’t really know.”

“I seee. For now, it might be better to resolve this misunderstanding, I guess.”

When I entered the living room, all of their stares gathered on me.

“So, what does the Guild’s receptionist Irene-san want with me? Even though our date is in 3 days, was your head full of plans? I just don’t know much about the town, so all you have to do is show me around. That’s all it is. It’s not the kind where you hold hands, arm and arm like lovers.”

Going on and on, I said that kind of excuse.

“A, it’s not about that.”

“Yeah, it can’t be about that. Then what is it?”

“It’s about the vespahornets.”

“Aa, about those bee monsters.”

“Yes, thanks to Camilla-san, we had insect repellant made, and now we are going to suppress them, though.”

“Please do your best.”

“There’s something we would like to ask of Naoki-san.”

“Of me? What?”

“Actually...”

Vespahornets are monsters that B-rank parties and up can suppress, but at present, this town only has parties up to C-rank it seems.

With that, I, being the lowest rank, G-rank, while having a high level, was selected out of everyone.

In the first place, I didn’t know anything about there being ranks, and I can’t make hornets that big my opponents so I refused, but still Irene invited me.

It’s become something like, normally doing masfascal extermination and ghost terror extermination, if it was the me who was strong with pest exterminations, then this time I should be fine too.

“By the way, what is your level now?”

“W,who knows?”

“Naoki-sama is right at level 60.”

Sera cut in with a loud voice.

“S,sera?”

“I have the Appraisal Skill, so there’s no way that’s wrong!”

Previously it should have been 57, but it went up again; checking it to be sure, certainly on the other side of the Adventurer’s Card, the number 60 was written there.

No, that’s not what the problem was.

“Six! ty!?”

Camilla’s eyes became bloodshot.

“Listen up! Naoki-san. It was recorded that the hero who defeated the demon king 300 years ago was level 55. Presently, Adventurers that are level 50 and above are made A-ranks.”

“However, that’s for people who have attached combat type Skills to themselves, right? I basically just assigned points to things like Detection Skill or Compounding skill, so...”

“Naoki-sama’s status is, Stamina 312, Strength 223, and Endurance 198, so I think that even if you’re naked you wouldn’t lose against vespahornets! By the way, Speed is 190, and Wisdom is unknown!”

“Sera! Please be quiet!”

“It’s fine, isn’t it? For Naoki-sama, he has magic circles.”

Balzack casually said.

“Ma!gic!? Circles!?”

Camilla stands up and grabs me.

“Balzack, you also be quiet.”

For crying out loud, how loose are my slaves’ lips?

“The only one who can defeat vespahornets is Naoki-san. Please, somehow save this town! As for the reward, the Guild and the governmental office will invest in it jointly, and if it’s you... then there would be a special service on the date, so...”

It was difficult to hear the second half, but Irene clasped my hand and stared at me with watery eyes.

“Right, then, I’ll do it.”

“Thank you so much! With that!”

Irene said that, left a bottle of insect repellant for my use, and returned to the Guild.

“Naoki!”

“Yes!”

“There’s a lot of things I want to ask you!”

Camilla, with a vice-like grip on my shoulder, approached.

Chapter 9

Up until noon, I was interrogated by Camilla about things like; I was a person from another world, that my Alchemy and Arithmetic was maxed, that currently my Magic Circle Studies had reached Level 5, that Irene wasn't my lover, and if I would refuse the special service on the date.

"Right then. It's become a problematic situation."

I was thinking in front of Sera and Balzack in my own room.

"Sorry. It's because we said all sorts of unnecessary things."

Balzack bowed his head.

"Seriously. You guys are my slaves, so why would you say things that put me at a disadvantage? Listen, I only want to live unrushed, honestly, quietly, and leisurely. But. Even. Though. That's. What. I. Want!"

"Forgive me! I beg of you, don't throw me away! I will do anything!"

Sera dogeza'd; her vigor was as if she'd lick my shoes.

"From now on, I strictly order you to not leak out my status and personal information to other people."

" " OK! " "

The two of them said it while giving me a double thumbs up.

"Dammit-! To be frank when it comes to this point pisses me off!"

So saying, I began my preparations.

Since Camilla had found out about it already, without the need to hide it, I raised my Magic Circle Studies to Level 10. There are 16 leftover Skill Points.

I have already become able to draw Magic Circles with my own magic power without

using the magic stone powder.

Furthermore, Magic Circles consume less magic power than magic in general; I found that, even if it's big magics, without using much magic power they can be activated.

The most peerless cost performance! is what it is.

Once Magic Circle Studies was maxed, the Magic Tool Manufacturing Skill dimly appeared.

Properly checking the Skill Tree, it seems it will fully appear when Craftship and Magic Circle Studies reach Level 10.

For some reason, Craftship has already reached Level 5.

Come to think of it, in my former world I was a do-it-yourself carpenter, and when I was in primary school I won a prize for drawing ability, but Level 5?

Without hesitation I raised Craftship to Level 10 and subsequently raised Magic Tool Manufacturing to Level 10 too. I have 1 Skill Point left over.

At this point it feels extremely bad to do things half way.

Using the help of the two slaves, I gathered large amounts of honey and thread.

Dissolving the pretty much useless, leftover magic stone powder in water, I dipped the thread into it.

With that thread, I embroidered my coverall with magic circles, raising its defensive powers by leaps and bounds.

Telling Camilla that I want her to make me a sleeping powder, I mixed it in with the honey and stewed it in a pot.

Just like that, I carried the pot over to the mansion on the very edge of the western part of town and put it in front of the gate.

I had thought that if we got even one it could be considered a profitable venture, but as many as 8 of the vespahornets came to be sleeping in front of the gate.

I drew a magic circle on every one of the 8's stomachs.

The vespahornets that woke up returned to the hive.

The magic circles drawn on the vespahornets' stomachs are magic circles that will gradually emit heat, and in the end explode.

I confirmed that all 8 of them exploded by the Detection Skill and by sound.

Bit by bit the hive burned; the vespahornets came out of the mansion and began to fly around it.

However, a wind magic circle was drawn to enclose the plot so that the vespahornets that tried to fly out of the mansion's plot of land had their wings shredded, were thrown upwards, and in about a few seconds came crashing to the ground.

When evening came, I and the two slaves ate a honey-toast bento and watched the oversized hornets being burned by the flames.

That day, since I had nothing else to do in particular, it's just waiting for the fire to go out, I returned and went to sleep.

The next day, when I went to the burned out mansion, the brick-made outer part was still standing firmly.

However the inside was full of soot so it was completely black.

Together with Sera and Balzack, we went around pulling out the rear stinger as subjugation proofs from the vespahornets' corpses.

When we had cleaned up the corpses from the grounds and first floor, it was already past noon.

The 3rd floor had collapsed, so the 2nd floor became open.

The queen bee vespahornet was also completely burnt black so she's become like a giant caterpillar.

Within her stomach are white eggs, but there's still heat in them.

It seems that they're very nutritious, so they can be traded for high prices, Balzack told me.

Anyway, we collected everything that could be used or turned into money and headed towards the Guild.

Reporting to the receptionist Irene, I had her take charge of the subjugation proofs and eggs.

With the numbers alone, and also because the remuneration is large, for now we receive just 5000Notts upfront.

At the mansion, since there was also the bones of the people who were the vespahornets' victims, with just what we did before we gave them a burial service, she said.

Because souls that have lost their place to be can turn into monsters, I heard.

When we were all done with counting the money and handing things over, outside the window the day had completely become dark.

Telling Balzack to rest fully, I put him up in the inn, and Sera and I went back.

When we returned to Elf's Pharmacy, when I checked my Adventurer's Card in my room, I confirmed that I had risen to Level 65.

Sera laid out her furs and made her own sleeping spot.

I took off my coverall and put it on a hanger, hanging it up in the closet.

"For goodness' sake, didn't get a chance to use this one this time."

I muttered that to myself.

"It's good you didn't have to use it,"

Sera said.

"Sera, did you use Appraisal on me today?"

"Yes, your Level has risen to 65. Would you like me to tell you your Status?"

"No, it's fine. It's just, understand that this is how I've been raising my Level. Up until now, I haven't left the town once, nor have I fought with monsters or magical beasts. I've only done exterminations. Thanks to that, I feel guilty towards Camilla and the other adventurers. I wanted someone to know."

"OK!"

Sera gave a thumbs and smiled happily.

“However, frankly speaking, I don’t think anyone other than Naoki-sama would think of this kind of method, and I believe that the people who would then think that they could do it would be few.”

“I wonder.”

“It’s true. A, should I attend to you today?”

“It’s fine, I reek of sweat.”

“Understood.”

Sera sniffed her own scent.

Using Cleanup on Sera and myself, we slipped into our beds.

“Tomorrow, the 3 of us will go to a bathhouse. Using Cleanup all the time doesn’t tend to the mind.”

“Thank you very much.”

“Night, Sera.”

“Good night. Naoki-sama.”

Like this, the days full of labor ended.

In the morning, when I had woken up, Sera and Balzack were talking about something with the door in between them.

“Morning.”

“Good Morning. Sorry, did I wake you?”

“No, it’s fine. It’s already time to get up. Did something happen?”

I asked while rubbing my eyes.

“That is...”

“Naoki-sama, it’s like this. I and Sera were asked to help by the Guild. Regarding that mansion from before, in order to match the remains with the bereaved families, I, who has a dog’s nose, and Sera, who possesses the Appraisal Skill are in demand. How does

that appeal to you? It's a story where if Naoki-sama does not give his permission we cannot take it, however..."

"Ou, then how about going?"

"Is it okay?"

"It's fine, right? The date is tomorrow, and we don't have anything to do today. I'm going to be watching the store, so you two should go to the mansion."

"Understood. Then excuse us."

Sera and Balzack went to leave.

"Wait a minute, take some money with you. You'll be troubled without enough for lunch, right? Here, is 5 gold coins enough"

I took 50 Notts from my coin purse and gave them to Sera.

"Naoki-sama, I can't take that much."

"It's fine. Eat well so you can work well; like that it's fine. And besides, I handed it over because I think that if it's the two of you, you won't spend it wastefully."

""Thank you very much.""

The two of them bowed their heads very deeply and left for the mansion.

After yawning largely, I went down the stairs and told Camilla that today I would watch the shop.

Next I handed over 500 Notts for her help previously with the sleeping powder and she jumped for joy.

Her 800 year old appearance jumping made me worried, but she immediately returned to her own room and came out with a "Best regards!" in her 20 year old form.

Chapter 10

Like always, I ate a breakfast of honey-toast, took a dose of herb tea, and soon a Customer-san came.

Adventurers heading to the forest came to buy poison-cleansing herbs.

Just in case, I recommended medicinal antidotes rather than the poison-cleansing herbs, but the disadvantage is that they're expensive so the poison-cleansing herbs were chosen instead.

I gave a neighbor obaa-san with a bad back acupuncture treatment, and when I had straightened her spine she went home.

A doctor that had a cold also bought a lot of expensive restoratives.

In order to supply products and replenish them, I also have to prepare request documents for the Guild.

Next, using the left over medicinal and poisonous herbs, I make all sorts of medicinal products.

Unexpectedly, the amount of things I have to do are many.

Right when I was thinking it was about time to eat lunch, in the corner of the room a bug came out so I stepped on it to kill it.

There seems to be insecticides and traps.

There's the possibility of contaminating the other medicines, so instead of insecticides I used sticky traps.

On a suitable wood plank I drew a magic circle, and installed them in corners where bugs seem like they would come to.

As for insecticides, in the first place there aren't any cans or spray nozzles, so let's substitute it with all sorts of things.

For the can I can substitute it with bottles or whatever, but a spray nozzle is

problematic.

I shaved some wood round, clipped it, made a straw out of a forabbit's gullet, and made an opening with a needle; it didn't turn out so good, but in short it's a small version of a well pump; I thought that, although it's a little too soon to say that.

As expected of Craftship 10.

It was soon completed.

Since I'm going through the trouble, I thought I'd go to a blacksmith and request a water pump, but, since I'm currently watching the shop, I rethought it when I realized that the well out back didn't have a pump, so it might be impossible without drawing a blueprint.

Ma, even if there wasn't a well, I can create as much water as I want by drawing a magic circle, though.

Magic circles sure are convenient.

Magic is way too convenient, so that's why there are so many things that haven't been developed, naa; while thinking that I also made the type of insecticide that let's out smoke from a bottle.

I close the window; the custom of calling out to the neighborhood that there's no fire comes from THIS.

There's probably no opportunity to test it in the store, but typical houses seem like they would have some.

I think that I should go look for a place somewhere to test it.

While working I tended to the customers, and pretty soon it's evening.

When the sky had changed to an orange color, Sera and Balzack returned.

The two of them both had wrinkles between their eyebrows and drooping shoulders.

"Did something happen?"

When I tried asking, the work of identifying corpses and meeting with the bereaved went well, but I was made fun of a lot.

“It’s weird that there’s a G Rank adventurer that has the ability to defeat vespahornets. I bet he hired a strong guy from somewhere,’ they said! I was pissed off so I said, ‘It’s Master’s ability!’ and then they said that the slaves are too full of themselves. ‘Your master is only good at exterminations,’ is what the church’s priest said. Naoki-sama should destroy that person along with the church!”

An irritated Sera said.

“There are people who think that you’re hiding some kind of strong weapon. Please beware of thefts. Maa, they were all people who aren’t Naoki-sama’s match, but I think it might be better to show them your skill once. Yes, please definitely do this! We even have the option of holding a fighting tournament! In 8 or 9 cases out of 10, I think Naoki-sama would be the victor!”

Balzack also gets heated up.

“Naoki-sama as well; how does quickly ranking up sound? Don’t you already hold the ability to immediately become A rank?”

Sera changed her point of attack on me.

“If I remember, you’ll need 10 goblin ears just to raise to F, was it? And then there was fighting with a Guild instructor? Sorry, but for me, I’m not aiming for that. With that, it’s fine to just take the people who want to make me a fool as fools themselves, right? I don’t care, you know. Aside from that, take a look at this!”

I take an insecticide bottle with water in it and shot it towards the two.

The mist-like water spray made the two of their cheeks a little wet.

“Wh,what is it!? That!?”

“Cold! What are you doing?”

The two of them both had rather good reactions.

“This is something that, by switching the contents, you could spray insect repellent, spray paint, or put on perfume. What do you think, great, right?”

“It’s great. It’s really great, but!”

“It’s so plan!”

From their mouths, Sera and Balzack uttered complaints.

“Na! So mean! Even though I took the pains to make it in one day!”

“In a day, you made that thing?”

“That’s right! Geez, what awful slaves! To not praise their master’s great works.”

“I’m back-!”

Camilla came back.

I showed Camilla the bottle too, but she said, “What is this, how plain,” and it was over.

“For crying out loud, is there nobody who can understand the majesty of this!?”

“Rather than that, here; I bought clothes for you to use for the date tomorrow, Naoki!”

“E!? What a wonderful person, Camilla is! From now on I will praise you as the wisest sage in the history of elves.”

“E,e,even if you praise me... So? It’s this. It’s like it’s just bursting with male sexiness. If it’s this, that girl will get all hot for you!”

So saying, what Camilla showed me was like amiami, a full-body tight with the other side transparent.

“Sorry, Camilla. I don’t think I can go along with your tastes. From now on you have won the title of the worst fashion leader in the history of elves.”

“Isn’t this amazing?! If you wear this, everyone in town will be turning to look at you!”

“And then I’ll be arrested by the guards! Forget it! I don’t want to hear anymore! I’m going to eat dinner and go right to sleep!”

Leaving aside Camilla who was grumbling complaints, we went to a pub in town to unwind, ate dinner, and after see the tipsy-ish Balzack off at the Guild’s inn, returned home.

I had also drunk liquor, so I entered the room, crawled into bed, and immediately fell asleep.

The next morning, I sent off the two slaves to the mansion that still had bodies left in it, bought a suitable shirt and black pants from the secondhand shop, and watched the store.

When it became around noon Irene came, so I left the store to Camilla and went out on my date.

We finished lunch at a public cafeteria and had tea.

“And so, Naoki-san, what did you want to know?”

“Everything, I guess. What is this world called? This country’s name, the town’s name, and what about if I want to go to the next town? Will a war break out? Other than the knowledge to live in this town, I really don’t know anything.”

Irene stroked her fox ears as she listened.

“Then, first would be the world, ne; rather than my knowledge, this is what pretty much most people know, though...”

What Irene told me is that this world is hemispherical, and the world seems to have an edge.

The world is called Serosophia.

And as for this country, it’s a country composed of the eastern half of a certain continent, so it’s name is the Country of Alisfay.

How big the continent is or what it’s shaped like is something Irene doesn’t know. This town is Kubenia, near the mountain ranges situated in the north of Alisfay that’s pretty much abandoned land.

Despite that, the previous feudal lords were great, so they have a Guild and commerce also developed somewhat.

Right now, Alisfay isn’t at war, but she doesn’t know about other countries.

Information gathering techniques haven’t been developed much, and government officials have also stopped the flow of information.

If I became a reporter, unexpectedly, I might be able to earn a lot.

From time to time, books are sent from the city, so the amount of things they have information on is many.

Among that there’s a story about a never before seen waterfall and never-before heard of machines written there; Irene said she’d like to see them once.

Since I’ve come to this world, 3 months have passed and I’ve gotten used to this town.

Seeing new towns and sceneries doesn't sound too bad either.

Since I have the opportunity to come to another world.

"A, that's right. There's something I need to ask about."

When we had left the public cafeteria and were fussing over the sundries shop and accessory shop, I thought of something.

"What is it? If it's something I can answer, then I'll answer it."

"It's just about slaves, see. Previously I hadn't seen anything like slaves. So I'm troubled as to how to treat them; if it's possible I'd like to quickly find them work and release them, but is that weird?"

"That's true. A regular master of slaves wouldn't do it. And it's terribly difficult for former slaves to find jobs."

"Is that so, I'll have wait patiently, huh? Tell me if there's any good jobs at the Guild. Something an old dog beastkin or Gekko tribe with the Appraisal Skill can do. As for Sera she's not cursed anymore, so she should be quite useful."

"...There is one, but I wonder how it would be?"

"Really!? Please, please, as long as it's something where they can make their living expenses and won't be troubled for food, whatever is fine."

Like that we went into a cafe and, while drinking tea, I talked with Irene.

When we left the cafe it was totally dusk.

Irene was carrying a lot of flower and accessory souvenirs.

It seems that Irene lives in the company housing close to the Guild, and so I saw her off to there.

"Thanks for today. I'm glad to learn all sorts of things about this world. And I'm in your care about the aforementioned thing."

"Me too; to have received so many souvenirs, I've made you use money."

"It's fine. Even if I kept it, I wouldn't use it for anything useful. Then, really, thanks for

today!”

“I thank you as well.”

Shaking hands with Irene, I hurry back to Elf’s Pharmacy.

Come to think of it, I don’t know what the special service was or if it happened, but the date went well so there’s no problems.

Chapter 11

When I arrived home, Sera and Balzack were waiting with towels.

“I’m back-“

“Welcome back, Naoki-sama.”

“What’s up? Waiting with towels.”

“Have you forgotten?”

Sera looked at me.

“Oh, that’s right! We made plans to go to the bathhouse. Alright, let’s go!”

I accompanied Sera and Balzack, going to a bathhouse nearby with a chimney with smoke coming out from it.

The history of bathhouses is old; it looks like about 2,000 years ago, another-worlder came and propagated them.

Was it a Roman?

Because it’s a public bath, it’s properly divided into a men’s and women’s bath.

Sera entered the women’s bath.

Balzack and I took off our clothes in the changing area and entered the bath with a towel in one hand.

The bath was large, but there wasn’t a separate place to wash up.

Instead there were a number of benches lined up, and slaves were washing their masters’ bodies.

For now, let’s head to the benches and wash up.

Balzack refused to let me wash him, but I forced the matter by saying, “Once the

clothes come off, it doesn't matter if you're a slave or a master."

I was looked at weirdly from all around us, but there were also those who talked to Balzack, saying, "You have a good master;" each person has his own way of thinking.

While submerging myself in the bathtub with Balzack, I told him what Irene and I had talked about at the cafe.

"Actually, it seems that the gravekeeper of the cemetery was not killed by Vespahornets."

"E, yes, I know. Because Sera was appraising it."

"And as for that, Town Hall is look for the successor, but it seems that they can't quite find anyone."

"That place is a little ways out of the city, after all. Furthermore, the situation of that mansion could be difficult."

"How about it? Do you want to try doing it, Balzack?"

"E? Me, is it?"

"That's right; I won't let you say it's impossible. As I said before, I want to quickly find you two jobs and release you from slavery. If it's grave-keeping, if it's there, the fact that you won't meet many people from town is good, you'll have a house, and Town Hall will properly hand out a salary."

"However, I am a dog beastman, you know?"

"Isn't that also fine? When the bereaved relatives come, you can tell immediately which grave it is by smell."

"However, Naoki-sama's assistance would"

"Truthfully it's easier for me to be alone. Although I don't know when that will happen."

"Is that so? What will you do about Sera?"

"There's that too, na..."

"I believe that Sera will not leave Naoki-sama, you know?"

With a big splash I washed my face.

“Yes. I don’t have any intentions on leaving.”

We are in my room at Elf’s Pharmacy.

We parted from Balzack at the bathhouse.

We talked about Balzack thinking about being a grave-keeper, what about Sera? – is what I tried asking.

“However, at this rate you’ll stay a slave forever.”

“Yes, staying Naoki-sama’s slave like this forever is good.”

“No it ain’t. For me, I don’t know what’s going to happen to me in the future.”

“If that’s the case, you should need an assistant even more so.”

“I got it. Then I’ll speak frankly to you, Sera. Actually, I’m thinking it’s about time for me to leave this town.”

“W-why is that?”

“I don’t know pretty much anything about this world. But today I talked with Irene, and I wanted to try going to different towns and cities. Aside from just this country, I want to see the edges of the world. I can’t have Sera follow me there. It’s dangerous, after all.”

“I am Naoki-sama’s slave, you know! Following along behind is what a slave is. If I die it’s fine to leave me there.”

“I’m not going to classify you like that. Sera wants me to use her like an object, right? There’s the possibility that even if you get sick, you won’t tell me. That’s the kind of ‘dangerous’ I’m talking about.”

“You’re saying that I’ll drag you down, right? So if I get strong enough to be able to protect Naoki-sama then it will be okay, right?”

“N? How did it become like that?”

“Understood! Then, it will be tomorrow, but Naoki-sama, please let me undergo training at the Guild!”

“For crying out loud, you’re not listening to me at all, huh?”

“It can’t be left like this! Naoki-sama, I’m sleeping! Because tomorrow will come faster that way!”

Sera turned off the lamp and dove into her covers.

I also got into bed, closed my eyes, and immediately fell asleep.

In the middle of the night I thought I could hear Sera’s snuffles, but it was probably a dream.

The next morning, I went to the Guild with Sera.

As for Balzack, we met on the way and explained the situation.

It really is difficult not to have any communication tools.

I think there should be some magic circle that let you have a conversation with someone who’s far away; I’ll have to look into it later.

As the Guild receptionist, Irene made Sera an Adventurer’s Card, and like that she took the beginner’s course.

Even if she starts the beginner’s course early it will take until at least noon, and like that she will receive training geared towards beginners; I guess she won’t be returning home for the whole day.

Balzack and I leisurely ate breakfast.

“As for that grave-keeper matter, I will take it. This morning, the Guild’s people also asked me of it.”

“I see. That’s good. Then I’m going to release your from slavery. Are there any procedures? Also, money, huh? Here, it’s better to have some.”

I handed over a wallet to Balzack.

“I would like to take a request with Naoki-sama in the end. Is this alright?”

“It’s fine, but I’m only G Rank so we can’t take any big requests.”

“It’s for the memory, so...”

“Is that so; I understand.”

It's been a while since I've gone to the request board to look.

"How about something like this? A request to defeat 5 goblins." (Balzack)

"So we'll go outside the town?"

"Is that no good? If you hunt enough of them, you'll become F Rank."

To rise up to F Rank you need 10 goblin right ears.

It's just, up until now I haven't had much interest in Adventurer Ranks so there was a matter where Balzack and Sera were made out to be fools.

If I wasn't going to meet with direct harm, then even if I'm a fool, I'm fine with G Rank.

To commemorate Balzack being released from slavery, it might be fine to raise my rank.

However, I will never raise my rank to the upper ranks.

If you become a high rank, it becomes a situation of directly being given large requests without being able to refuse them.

The moment he heard that, "What do you mean it's way annoying?" is what he thought of it.

"Then, let's take this." (Naoki)

"Thank you very much."

"We're only going once we get our equipment together properly."

"I know."

I tore the written request off the board and took it to the receptionist.

Irene was also surprised that I was going to go outside of town and hunt goblins.

At the weaponshop I bought an iron sword and iron gauntlets as a present for Balzack.

"Um... is Naoki-sama not going to change his equipment?"

"Because I have the coverall. Wait a bit and I'll go back to my room to prepare."

So saying, I immediately returned to Elf's Pharmacy, and from my room I brought

along a bag with the leftover magic stone powder.

Dissolving the magic stone powder in water, I drew a magic circle on the middle of Balzack's sword to make cutting easier.

I also drew a magic circle to increase defense on the gauntlets.

"With this, as long as rain doesn't wash it off, it should stay for 2 or 3 days."

"Um, what are you doing?"

"I'm just making your attack and defense go up by about 10 times. With this you should be able to hunt even goblins with ease."

"Naoki-sama! Please don't do careless things like this in the future!"

"Aa, it's because it's Balzack."

"I understand, but if you make artifact-grade items so easily, even I will be struggling with agitation."

"You're exaggerating."

While talking about things like that, we entered the forest.

Chapter 12

It's my first forest.

In actuality, it would be, aside from the first time when I fell into this world.

At that time, I was searching for signs of people without having the mind for leisurely enjoying the scenery, but now I am able to enjoy the humus that I'm stepping on and the sunlight hitting the green leaves.

As if she was giving a warning, Irene said that recently there were goblins of a different, so "do take note."

"At that time, I wasn't sure what I should be taking note of, but does Balzack know?"

"Basically, there might be a new species of goblin, possibly a powerful breed particular to this area, and you should take note of this when fighting, is what it means."

"Is that it... Balzack is someone you can rely on, huh?"

"Naoki-sama's level is high, but you really don't know about anything."

"Nothing at all, naa. But man, the weather's great. For there to really be monsters is, bu-bu- !!!"

Something came jumping out at my face.

There was pretty much no damage, but it scared me badly.

When I look at it, it's a rabbit the size of a medium-sized dog with a horn growing from it that's menacing us.

"It's a forabbit!"(Balzack)

"Is that so; shall we run?"

"Please don't run from this kind of opponent!"

When Balzack said so, his sword completely took it down.

"You're strong, huh? Balzack."

"That's not it! It's this sword that's weird! What shall we do, strip the fur?"

“It’s fine. Let’s just take the subjugation proof and go.”

“Understood. Should we burn the corpse?”

“There’s that too.”

Balzack cut the ears off, and I drew a magic circle on the ground to incinerate it.

“Good grief; I wonder why don’t you use that power in battle?”

“That’s right. I’ll do that next time.”

After walking for a while, all sorts of forabbits and masmaskarl types came running out.

All of them were incinerated, and Balzack got mad at me with, “The subjugation proof aren’t left behind, right?!”

If he gets mad, then it’s troublesome, naa; when I looked in another direction, I realized that there was a purple, human-shaped monster-like thing looking this way in the shadow of a tree.

“Balzack, is that a goblin?”

“That’s right. However, the color is wrong. Isn’t that what Irene-sama was talking about?”

“What should I do? It’s not good if I incinerate it again, I guess?”

“I will go instead!”

When Balzack said that, he mowed it down with his sword from the side.

The different-colored goblin dodged it by squatting, but the tree he was hiding near was completely cut through and fell over.

The goblin dodged the tree and fled in a fluster.

“Now then, let’s chase it.”

Balzack said as he resheathed the sword into the sheathe at his waist.

“Chase it?”

“Yes, because its comrades might be nearby. If it does have comrades, we can finish

the request in one go.”

Balzack gave chase, running into the inner forest.

I as well gave followed one step behind him.

I normally don't exercise enough so my speed is a little slow, but somehow I manage to follow after.

As expected, should I do some jogging at least?

It's just, my endurance is way more than enough so I didn't get tired at all.

After running about 10 minutes on, the goblin disappeared.

Balzack, who was running in the front, stood still and motioned for me to stop.

There were all sorts of trees cut down, forming a large depression where the surface of the ground was exposed.

The den the goblin ran away to extended diagonally along the bottom of the depression.

It's big enough for an adult to enter, but if there's a bunch of traps installed then it could get troublesome.

“Are we intending to enter this?”

“How about it? Although it's no problem for me because of my nose. If Naoki-sama has the Search skill, then...”

“I have it. It would have been better if I had done this from the beginning.”

When I took a look with the Search skill, I found out that the den spread out very extensively.

Furthermore, the number of goblins inside are at the scale where you can't count them; a number where 100 or 200 wouldn't be sufficient to use as units.

The entrance of the cave also has many; about 6 are there.

“Right then, what should we do?”

I consulted with Balzack.

“I think it would be best to think about it as something along the lines of Naoki-sama's

specialization of extermination-type requests.”

“Maa, we can’t just leave it like this, I guess. That said, burning them all won’t fulfill our request.”

So saying, I fished around the contents of my bag.

What I took out was a Varsan type insecticide and a sticky board.

<Varsan, a smoke-bomb type>

“Do you think these will do it?”

“What will? What are those?”

“A pesticide that you use for large areas. If you switch the insides for sleeping drug and throw it in, I think we’ll manage somehow.”(Naoki)

“And this is a board that has some adhesive, but for now I want Balzack to go pick mushrooms for the sleep drug.” (also Naoki)

“Understood. Is the type that’s at Elf’s Pharmacy suitable?”

“You know which ones?”

“Yes, I watched Camilla-sama work, after all.”

“Then, I’ll request that of you. Oh right, take this with you.”

So saying, I took out two pouches, drew magic circles on them, and handed them to Balzack.

“Try talking to that.”

“E? To this?”

[“E? To this?”]

You can hear Balzack’s voice from the pouch.

“See? Even if you’re far away, it’s a bag you can put a little magic into to talk. Well, after a certain amount of time the magic circle disappears, so it lasts about 2 hours. Take this with you. We’ll meet up later.”

“My word, it’s splendid! I understand.”

Balzack carried the pouch like it was something precious and then disappeared into

the forest.

“Now then, I’ll have to bring down the entrances here.”

I drew a magic circle and went off to block the entrance with earth magic.

I prioritized blocking entrances when there weren’t goblins, and when the comings and goings were going to be particularly busy I drew a magic circle on a plank of wood and threw it in.

Anyone with magic power that passed by would cause rocks to rain down.

Even though they’re goblins they should have magic power.

Sure enough, there was a big commotion when a single goblin appeared and a rock squished him.

One by one I threw them in and the entrance was sealed off.

For now the entrance is blocked off and I need to search for air holes.

And here, Balzack contacted me.

[“Sleep shrooms have been obtained. Can you hear me, Naoki-sama?”

“Aa, I hear you. Then come to the entrance that the goblin that ran away went to at the beginning.”

I met up with Balzack and made a strong sleep drug.

I put the strong sleep drug I made into the Va^osan and searched for an air hole.

Using the Search skill to look, I found a crack in the rock next to the river.

Because it connects to the cave, so smoke from the powerful sleep drug will enter it; I throw it into the crack.

After that is just sealing up the crack with magic circle earth magic.

After some time, it seems that the goblins inside are raging.

With the Search skill, I see that, because not all the air holes are stopped up, there is smoke coming from here and there within the forest.

Drinking a sleep drug antidote, I stopped up the places that had smoke rising with earth magic.

Balzack also drew magic circles and helped out.

When there was no more smoke coming from the ground, with Search skill I see that within the cave, the goblins' movements have become worse.

It seems like it's effective, so all we have to do is wait.

Within that time we finished off lunch.

"Today is pretty much over."

"My goodness, when I'm with Naoki-sama, it doesn't feel like we're subjugating monsters at all."

"Rather than subjugation, it's extermination after all. That's what I do. *Are?* My level went up."

When I inadvertently looked at my Adventurer's Card, the level went up to 72.

When I look with Search Skill, the red-lights that are goblins are becoming black.

"It might have been too powerful of a drug, huh?"

"Certainly, if you consume sleeping medication in big quantities you can die. Right then, let's wait until they all die."

While taking a tea break with the herbal tea that Balzack brewed, I sit on a stump and wait.

When monsters came out, Balzack hunted them.

There were goblins who had been out and could no longer return who attacked us, so Balzack sent their heads flying.

When I threw a poison bag, I understood why they had become purple.

The poison worked on the green goblins, but didn't work on the purple goblins.

It's an evolved form of goblin, it seems.

Talking it over with Balzack, they're goblins that have consumed too much poison and evolved.

When I heard about the poison, I remembered the poisoned masmascarl corpses I had been throwing into the forest.

When I thought that what goes around comes around and attacked me, I was deeply moved.

“Now then, it should be about time to open it up.”

“Understood.”

First I erase the magic circles on top of the air holes and move the dirt.

I get rid of the rocks in the entrance and fed air through with wind magic to get rid of the sleeping drug.

Just in case, so we would breathe in clean air, I drew a magic circle on a hand towel and covered my mouth like a mask.

There were a lot of goblins at the entrance, so we are able to cut off the right ear as the subjugation proof one after another.

Among the goblins are particularly large individuals and goblins wearing flashy clothes; Balzack taught me that these were superior species.

Superior species are those who have gotten stronger far beyond a goblin's strength and rarely pop up around Kubenia; it happens once in many years and plants fear into beginner Adventurers.

Somehow it seems like I've exterminated all of them.

“Is it okay to burn all of them?”

“It might be better to report to the Guild just in case. There really aren't goblin groups with this amount of goblins, after all. If they call in a specialist, they might be able figure out how to prevent this in the future.”

“That's true. Ah! The magic stones.”

Among the superior species there are also ones with magic stones dead center in their chests.

They can become money, and I can use them when making magic tools, so I'll collect them.

“However, there are also a lot of the ones with magic stones. Come to think of it, was the magic stone from the queen bee of the vespahornets recovered?” (Balzack)

“No.”

“It probably had one, so I will look for it.”

“Sorry, I’ll leave it to you.”

When we had cut off all the goblins’ right ears from their corpses, there were 636 of them.

WE cut quite a bit of these.

I’ve been cutting ears off of goblins, so my back hurts.

“To be safe, should I make this place airtight to preserve the scene?” (Naoki)

“That’s true. That method might be good.”

I drew a magic circle at the entrance once again, sealing the cave.

I’m just going to leave the airholes as is.

The amount of right ears in the bag is quite tough, so we return to town and head to the Guild.

Even if you say they’re just right ears, there’s a lot so it’s quite heavy.

When I return home, I’m going to make an item bag that won’t get heavy no matter how much you put in it.

Chapter 13

I went to the Guild, handed the bag over to Receptionist Irene, and told her all about the goblin cave.

Irene immediately drew back into the inner room, gave an explanation to her superiors, and it's become a matter where they will call in a specialist from the capital in the future.

"And so, it's about the reward, but... the previous reward from the vespahornets has also not been paid in full, and this time, since you've hunted so many, the Guild's budget will be gone."

"Got it. Then, forget about this time, but can you make Balzack's living circumstances easier?"

"Naoki-sama! To make it about me!"

"We understand." (Guild/Irene)

"Right then, to release a slave, is there some sort of procedure you have to go through?"

"No, not particularly. If the master conveys that he wishes to free them, the slave becomes a freed slave."

Irene taught me.

"Alright, then as of now I release Balzack from being my slave! Thanks for everything! You've worked hard!"

"Naoki-sama! Thank you as well! From when you saved me from death..."

After that Balzack began to recite everything from when we met, so we moved to the inn and began drinking in the eating area.

The slave symbol on his shoulder was removed with a magic circle.

When the sky had become completely dark, Sera returned.

“Na... oki, sama!”

She's become completely worn out.

I had Sera drink a Recovery Potion and requested food.

Balzack talked about the extermination of the goblin den, painting it in grand colors, and lightly talked about being released from slavery.

Sera cried from happiness and gave Balzack words of gratitude.

“You, are you Sera's master?”

A female swordswoman in bikini armor approached the table the three of us were drinking at and talked to us.

“That's right, is there something?”

“Have you not heard from Sera yet? We discovered that Sera's abilities with magic is surpassing excellent.”

“Oo-! Is that so! Isn't that amazing?”

“I was the instructor. If you'd like, I could write her a recommendation for a magic school in the capital; how about it?”

“I'd be grateful for that. Sera, it's the capital's magic school, you know?”

“I will not be going!”

“Why?! You have that much talent, you shouldn't waste it.”

The swordswoman instructor hounded her.

“I am Naoki-sama's slave. A slave that serves at her master's side. Learning magic at the capital, can you imagine that I, a slave, could do something like that?”

“Then it will be fine if I release you from slavery. Right?”

I said as I slurped liquor from a wooden cup.

“Look, your master even said so, so how about it?”

“NO! I want to be Naoki-sama's slave! I won't go to the capital!”

Looks like Sera's not in the mood to listen.

“Is that so? What a pity. Forgive me, I’ve hindered your meal.”

The swordswoman hung her head, turned on her heels, and walked away.

Once again the three of us started our meal.

“And so, Naoki-sama is now F Rank, right?” (Sera)

“A, I forgot. What should I do?” (Naoki)

“Seriously, we did. We didn’t have the opportunity to do so, after all. Certainly you’ve cleared the subjugation part, so you just need to have a mock battle with an instructor and you should become F Rank.”

Balzack told me.

“I see. Then it should be fine for me to fight someone like that swordswoman just now.”

“If it’s Naoki-sama, you’d be more than enough. Did your level go up again? Your true strength is over 2 times hers, so there aren’t any problems.”

Looks like Sera used her Appraisal skill.

“Then I’m going to ask if I can take the test now. It’s night-time, but there are probably staff members around.”

I stood up, made my way to the reception area, and applied for the rank up test, but the staff members began to make a fuss.

“Um... wasn’t Naoki-san not interested in ranks?”

“Yeah, it was like that, but it’s in commemoration for Balzacks release from slavery. It’s like, to give him peace of mind. Being made a fool of because I’m G Rank or whatever, I wondered if it wouldn’t be displeasing as a former slave.”

“I... I understand. Um, by the way, about your level, would you tell me what it is?”

“Let’s stop with that. I don’t understand all those numbers, and if it becomes something annoying, I’ll be troubled.”

“I understand. Do you want to take your test immediately?”

“That’s right. If it’s possible, I was also drinking, so a person who isn’t that strong would be good.”

“I will take that into account. The test fees will be reduced from the reward you are

still owed.”

“Thanks.”

I, at that moment, had made a resolution.

—

The training grounds behind the Guild are about the size of an elementary schoolyard; even though it was evening, there were a lot of Adventurers training.

The forms of the Adventurers giving their all is blinding.

Before my eyes, the swordswoman from before appeared.

“A, from before.” (Naoki)

“I am the instructor for the mock battle. I am Ayl. Thanks for having me.”

“I am the G Rank Adventurer Naoki. I’ll be in your care.”

“Are you okay in that equipment?”

“Yes, a, would it be better if I had something like a wooden sword?”

The swordswoman was amazed and picked up a wooden sword from along the wall and threw it in my direction.

I, who caught the sword in midair, just waited for it to begin.

“Well then, we will begin!”

“Naoki-sama! Be careful!”

Sera, who came to watch, screamed.

“Naoki-sama! I’m sleepy, so do it as quickly as possible please!”

Balzack, with a liquor bottle in one hand, languidly cheered.

He’s completely sauced.

“Well then, let’s begin!”

“Please!”

The standard of battles is the greetings, after all.

My eyes went to the blue bikini armor on her breasts, but she has tight six-packs at her waist, which emphasizes her butt.

Her face is also quite beautiful.

Nono, it's not like I'm just watching those places, I'm also watching the sword's tip and movements.

Her eye movements also have a feint in them, but in the first place, even if there is a feint I can't do anything in response, just be surprised.

The instructor called Ayl attacked with a feint.

It looked very slow, and I was able to dodge.

It's probably because my high level corrected my dexterity.

Next is a reverse-diagonal slash from the right, which as long as I know that, there aren't any problems dodging.

It's just, regrettably I don't start commencing the attack from here; I haven't used a wooden sword even once before.

While I'm at a loss as to what to do, Ayl's figure suddenly disappeared.

Apparently she also used Illusion magic, I guess.

I completely see her with Search skill.

That said, a swordsman who uses Illusion magic to disappear would be a magic swordsman, right?

As expected of the Guild's instructor.

Even if I know what direction they're coming from, I don't know what kind of attacks are coming, so I take a few hits.

It's just they all hit the coverall with magic circles drawn on it, so there wasn't any damage.

It's probably good now.

Balzack also said to do it quickly, so let's take a chance.

Drawing a magic circle to make someone faint, I approached the front of Ayl using the Search skill and hit out horizontally.

Because if I did it vertically she could dodge.

It's an attack that's good as long as it hits.

The wooden sword got a clean hit on Ayl's shoulder, the Illusion magic was dissolved and Ayl crumbled to the ground.

I erased the magic circle on the wooden sword and held Ayl's body in order to wake her.

With the restoratives that Sera had handed over, when Ayl smelled them, she got up, startled.

Ayl gripped her sword, standing against me, but suddenly she understood what was going on and lowered her sword.

"So I lost."

"Did I pass?"

"You won against an instructor, so of course."

Ayl went trudging into the Guild, dispirited.

While seeing off that back,

"I wonder if I've done something bad..."

"As expected of Naoki-sama!"

At Sera's words, the training grounds suddenly exploded in energy.

Looks like the Adventurers who were training were watching the test.

Balzack quietly handed over the liquor bottle in his hands.

"Won't you have a victory drink?"

"That's true. It was my first personal battle, but it didn't really feel like I was facing it."

"Take all of those thoughts and drown it in liquor."

“Haha, your sophistication hasn’t lost itself with age. Balzack.”

“Yes, it’s because I’m Naoki-sama’s former slave.”

“From now on you can say you’re the former slave of an F Rank Adventurer.”

“Yes, thank you very much. However, from now on Naoki-sama will go many ranks.”

“Well, it doesn’t matter to me, though.”

Balzack and I joined shoulders and returned to the eating area.

Because she’s the receptionist, Irene came to tell me to hand over my Adventurer Card.

It seems they’ll make the card F Ranked.

When that happens, my level will be found out.

“Irene-san, do you think you could keep my level a secret?”

I begged her with my hands pressed together like I’m praying and showed her my Adventurer Card.

“S,seventy-...!?... I can’t show anyone this. It’s not the level of an F Rank Adventurer.”

“Thanks.”

Irene received my Adventurer Card and returned to the reception area; she quickly made it an F Rank and returned.

“Is this alright? With this you are now an F Rank Adventurer. The requests that will take you outside of the town will increase, but please carry them out responsibly.”

“Right. I understand.”

I received my Adventurer Card from Irene.

“And from now on, please take care not to break the pride of Guild staff members.”

“A, as I thought, I did something bad to that instructor from before, huh?”

“...Yes. Well, Naoki-san, who won, hasn’t done anything wrong, so she’s just dissatisfied, though.”

“Sorry. A, that’s right, can I use this F Rank Card anywhere?”

“E? Y, yes, because this card is something that is common all over the world. Please do

not lose it.”

“Is that so, then, when I see that Balzack can work normally, I am going to leave this town.”

“Wha!? I, is that so?”

While Irene is startled, she came to an understanding.

“Whwhwhwhwhwhwhwhwhat do you mean!?”

Sera is visibly agitated.

“I decided on it before the test. Sera, go to the capital’s magic school. This is your master’s final order. At the moment you reach the magic school, I release you from being my slave. As for the tuition, Irene, could it come out of my reward’s payment? If it’s not enough just tell me.”

“Not at all, there are absolutely no problems.”

Irene said.

“I absolutely don’t want to leave Naoki-sama!”

“Nope, that’s no good. From now on I’ll leave on a journey. The weak you will slow me down. Sera.”

“N-n-n-n-no way!”

Sera sobbed while she screamed.

“How long is it for graduation at the magic school?”

“Probably 7 years, I believe.”

Irene told me.

“Then, let’s meet again in 7 years. If at that time Sera is stronger, then we’ll journey together.”

“Se... seven years!? It’s too long!”

“If you show your superiority, it’s possible to skip grades, you know.”

“*Sob sob*... I understand. Is that how it is? You’re throwing me away, right? Then I’ll show you and graduate in 2 years! Naoki-sama, the next time we meet we’ll have a

match. If I win, you have to take me along with you!!”

The crying Sera’s fighting spirit burned and she made an earth-shaking declaration.

“Well, good luck! So, the two of us have left the nest! Let’s drink!” (Balzack)

“Congratulations on Naoki-sama’s promotion to F Rank, too!” (also Balzack)

Balzack gave a loud toast and began drinking.

After that, everyone got dead drunk, and that day all three of us stayed over in the Guild’s inn.

Chapter 14

The next morning I cured our hangovers with a magic circle in an instant and returned to Elf's Pharmacy.

To Camilla, I told her about Sera and Balzack's situation, and about me going out into the world.

"Why?! I don't get what you're trying to say!! Why? Haa!?"

She was greatly confused, so she switched from her old-person form to her young form.

"I thought I'd travel through this world, see all sorts of towns and sceneries, and then return here."

"Is that so. Then in the end you'll return, right? You must!"

"That's my intentions."

"Intentions? About how many years are you intending to travel?"

"Who knows? For now, I have plans to meet up with Sera in 7 years."

"7 years? If the journey's like that, I'll grow old though?"

"N? It's fine to grow old, isn't it? Or like, Camilla, you're an elf so you won't get that old."

"I'm talking about the feelings! The feelings! Haa~~a, geez. I knew you were this type of guy! Good grief!"

"And so it's like that, so if Balzack gets into trouble with his rent, help him out."

"There's a greater chance of him having to help me out, but I understand."

I go to my room on the 2nd floor and put together my luggage.

While Sera is also putting her own luggage together, she sighs heavily one after another.

“As expected, it’s not possible to avoid going to the magic school, huh?”

Sera sulkily grumbled.

“Hm? What is it? Are you uneasy?”

“No, that’s not it.”

“Don’t worry. Even if you drop out of school, in 7 years I’ll go to meet you.”

“Saying something like that, Naoki-sama will definitely forget, everything about me.”

“Y, you’re a troublesome one. Right, I got it.”

On a pouch, I sewed on a magic circle with thread dipped in magic stone powder dissolved in water.

My Craftship is 10, so I finished 2 of them in 5 minutes.

“Listen, this is a pouch that, if you put magic power into this, you can talk to me.”

“E!?”

“Maa, if you’re lonely, if you’re upset, contact me. However, you can’t do it frequently. At the most, 1 time per month. And, only when I have the free time. With this you’ll be able to contact me even during my travels. How about it?”

“If I have this, I can contact Naoki-sama anytime, anywhere!”

As if she was stealing it from me, Sera pounced on the pouch.

“Letters? What about letters?”

“I can send them, but I can’t receive them from Sera. My destination isn’t fixed, after all. At the times I’ll stay somewhere for a while, I’ll call you.”

“I understand. Definitely! Definitely contact me!”

“I got it.”

Sera hung the pouch from her neck by its drawstrings, putting it under her inner wear.

When we had finished preparing for the journey, like that the two of us headed to the town’s cemetery.

Next to the cemetery is an adjacent house; that seems to be Balzack's new home.

When I knocked on the door, Balzack appeared with a towel over his face like a mask.

"A, Naoki-sama, and Sera as well, welcome, right now it's a little messy, but come in."

Balzack gladly received me into the house.

The inside of the house is considerably dusty, and the kitchen is also terribly grimy with oil.

I used life magic's Clean Up on the entirety of the house.

The dust and grime were completely wiped clean, but now we need to stop up all the drafts.

I go to close of the gaps in the board and mud walls.

I conveniently had some sticky boards, so I placed them in the corners as countermeasures for insects.

I also made Balzack a callbag and handed it over.

"If you put magic into this callbag and talk, you can contact Sera and me. If you're feeling lonely or upset, please do so."

"Understood. This is different from the one before; there's no time limit."

If I give it to Balzack as well, even Sera would be embarrassed so she probably won't call me that often.

Balzack also hung the pouch from his neck.

"How is it? Do you think you can manage?" (Naoki)

"I'm not sure yet. But I'll manage somehow."

Balzack returned with a grin.

"That's right. Seems like Balzack will be fine. The problem is Sera, huh?"

"Me? I'll be fine."

A sulky Sera said.

"Maa, it's the magic school at the capital at least, so there's probably going to be guys with superior talent as well as nasty types. There may be ikemen, too, probably. It will

expand your views. And as for that, I might stop by the capital during my travels.”

“Really!? I’ll do my best!”

This morning, I asked the Guild instructor to make a recommendation for Sera to go to the magic school.

As long as she goes she’ll make it in somehow – is not what I thought.

“A, that’s right. Here, Sera.”

I handed Sera a pouch with the money I had on hand.

“You’ll have expenses, right?”

“E? But I can’t take this much. And besides, without this money, won’t Naoki-sama be broke?”

“It’s fine. Because once I get the reward money from the Guild I’ll be set. Buy the things you’ll need.”

“Thank you very much.”

Sera put the pouch in a bigger bag.

“Now then, should I get rid of Sera’s slave crest?”

“E? Now?”

“Yeah, show me your shoulder.”

Sera blushed and bared her shoulder.

I drew a magic circle that would end the curse of the slave crest, and in an instant it disappeared.

“With this, Sera is no longer my slave. Now you probably won’t be harassed for being a slave at the magic school.”

“If I’m free with this, I have the freedom to follow Naoki-sama, right?”

“If you do that, then I won’t talk to you for the rest of my life.”

“I understand. It was a joke. It seems like I have talent, so I will study magic. But definitely come to meet me.”

“Right then, shall we get going?”

We dropped by the Guild and greeted Irene.

It seems that Sera will board a carriage going to the capital tomorrow.

Until then I will stay at Balzack's house or the Elf's Pharmacy.

"Then, I'm going to be the first to set off."

"Where are you going to go first?"

Balzack asked.

"I'm thinking about going to a port town to the south. I'd like a map, though; if I had one that'd be great."

"You're going far away, aren't you?"

Sera said sadly.

"Isn't it fine? You'll be able to call me soon."

"That's true, but..."

Sera began scrubbing at her face; it's a little early, but let's set off.

It looks like if I let it go too long then I'll lose the timing to leave.

At the town entrance, aside from Sera and Balzack, Irene and Camilla also came.

Hearing that I was leaving the town, the sheep beastmen from the ranch also came.

They're all in the same coverall outfit.

"We-ll, you're leaving before winter, aren't you? Take this with you."

The sheep beastment gave me a warm-looking cloak as a present.

I rolled up the cloak and tied it on top of my rucksack.

"Then, I'm off!"

“ “ “ Take care-!” “ “ “

Partings are better if they're simple.

Sera's tears are flowing, but I don't want to make it gloomy.

I waved my hand, and after I started walking off I didn't turn around, heading straight along the road.

When I got tired I ate breakfast.

I was exercising caution towards monsters, therefore I activated the Search skill.

From time to time a peddler's horse-drawn wagon passes, but there's no chance to get on and I walked onwards with my own feet.

This is the kind of journey I wanted.

Although, there is someone following along behind me.

It's different from being with Sera and Balzack.

The other person doesn't seem to have any intentions of showing himself.

If something happens, I'll deal with it.



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